# NEXSEN PRUET

November 13, 2007

Burnet R. Maybank, III

Member

Admitted in SC

## VIA ELECTRONIC FILING, HAND-DELIVERY AND REGULAR MAIL

Public Service Commission
Docketing Department
P.O. Drawer 11649
101 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Re: Application of Alltel Communications, Inc for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Pursuant to Section 214(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934

Alltel Brief - Docket Number 2007-151-C

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Charleston

Charlotte

Enclosed for filing please find an original and one (1) copy of Alltel Brief in the above-referenced matter, together with a docket cover sheet.

#### Columbia

Greensboro

By copy of this letter, I am serving all parties of record with a copy of this Alltel Brief as indicated on the attached Certificate of Service.

Greenville

Hilton Head

Myrtle Beach

The enclosed document is an exact duplicate of the e-filed copy submitted to the Commission in accordance with its electronic filing instructions.

Very truly yours,

Burnet R. Maybank, III

Sum

Enclosures BRM/sjn

cc: Nanette S. Edwards, Esq. All Parties of Record

#### Docket Number 2007-151-C

Application of Alltel Communications, Inc. for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) in the State of South Carolina

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#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Shirley J. Neal, hereby certify that on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2007, a copy of **Alltel Brief** was placed in the United States mail, via first class, postage prepaid to:

C. Leslie Hammonds Office of Regulatory Post Office Box 11263 Columbia, SC 29211

Margaret M. Fox McNair Law Firm, P.A. Post Office Box 11390 Columbia, SC 29211

Scott Elliott Elliott & Elliott, P.a. 721 Olive Street Columbia, SC 29205

Shuly & Heal

(Caption of Case)  Application of Alltel Communications, Inc. for Designation As An Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Pursuant to Section 214(d)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934		BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA  COVER SHEET  DOCKET NUMBER: 2005 - 151 - C		
(Please type or print) Submitted by: Burnet R. Maybank III		SC Dai Mulliber. ——	SC Bar Number: 3699	
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Columbia, SC 29201		Email: bmaybank@nex	xsenpruet.com	
DO  Emergency Relief demanded i  Other:		RMATION (Check all that app Request for item to be place expeditiously		
INDUSTRY (Check one)	NATURE OF ACTION (Check all that apply)			
☐ Electric	Affidavit	★ Letter	Request	
☐ Electric/Gas	Agreement	Memorandum	Request for Certification	
☐ Electric/Telecommunications	Answer	☐ Motion	Request for Investigation	
☐ Electric/Water	Appellate Review	Objection	Resale Agreement	
Electric/Water/Telecom.	Application	Petition	Resale Amendment	
Electric/Water/Sewer	X Brief	Petition for Reconsiderat	tion Reservation Letter	
Gas	Certificate	Petition for Rulemaking	Response	
Railroad	Comments	Petition for Rule to Show C	Cause Response to Discovery	
Sewer	Complaint	Petition to Intervene	Return to Petition	
▼ Telecommunications	Consent Order	Petition to Intervene Out of	Time Stipulation	
Transportation	Discovery	Prefiled Testimony	Subpoena	
Water	Exhibit	Promotion	Tariff	
Water/Sewer	Expedited Considera	ation Proposed Order	Other:	
Administrative Matter	☐ Interconnection Agr	eement Protest	<del></del>	
Other:	Interconnection Am	endment Publisher's Affidavit		
	Late-Filed Exhibit	Report		
	Print Form	Reset Form		

### BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE MATTER OF	)	
	)	Docket No. 2007-151-C
APPLICATION OF ALLTEL	)	
COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR	)	ALLTEL BRIEF
DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE	)	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER	)	
PURSUANT TO SECTION 214(e)(2) OF THE	)	
COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934		

COMES NOW, Alltel Communications, Inc. ("Alltel") in response to the Commission's Order Requesting Briefs dated November 2, 2007. Alltel responds as follows;

On October 26, 2007, the FCC issued a Memorandum Opinion and Order approving transfer of control of wireless licenses, leases and certain authorizations held by Alltel Corporation to Atlantis Holdings LLC. *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, FCC 07-185, WT Docket No. 07-128 (Oct. 26, 2007). As a condition of the approved transfers, the FCC imposed an interim cap on the federal support received by Alltel on an annual basis. As a result of the condition, Alltel's receipt of federal support will be capped and measured as of the end of June 2007 on an annualized basis.

The Commission, in its October 26, 2007, Order Requesting Briefs, sought comment from the parties on the impact of the above-identified FCC ruling on Alltel's Application for Designation as an ETC in South Carolina. First, the cap does not alter the fact that Alltel will continue to provide service under the Alltel name and is committed, and legally obligated, to meet its universal service obligations where designated an ETC to the extent it receives universal service support – including South Carolina once

designated. Alltel will continue to utilize all federal support received for the purposes for which such support is intended – thereby benefiting the unserved and underserved areas.

As explained in its Application and resulting testimony in this proceeding, Alltel relies on federal support to construct, operate and maintain facilities and services that would not otherwise be available or economically viable absent use/investment of federal support. The FCC's recent conditioned approval does not change or otherwise impact the need for such support to further advance the goals of universal service.

Although the interim support cap will limit the amount of federal support that Alltel receives on an annual basis, it does not impact Alltel's ultimate commitment and obligation as an ETC to invest each dollar of support received to advance the goals of universal service.

As a result of the newly imposed cap this Commission need not decide arguments regarding the impact on the size of the fund as a result of Alltel's ETC designation in South Carolina. In short, designating Alltel as an ETC in South Carolina will not increase the size of the federal universal service fund.

The most significant "impact" for the Commission's consideration is the negative impact on South Carolina consumers if Alltel's designation is denied. Rejecting the Alltel designation will foreclose any investment of federal high-cost support in South Carolina by Alltel for the advancement of wireless service in underserved areas of South Carolina. On the other hand, designating Alltel as an ETC in South Carolina ensures that any federal support received by Alltel in South Carolina will be invested back in to South Carolina for the benefit of South Carolina consumers in order to advance the goals of universal service.

Burnet R. Maybank, III

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November (3, 2007 Columbia, South Carolina